

Choate House, Originally the Sylvanus Ripley House
27 North Main Street
Hanover
Grafton County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-72

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

CHOATE HOUSE-ORIGINALLY THE SYLVANUS RIPLEY HOUSE

HABS
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Location: 27 North Main Street, Hanover, Grafton
County, New Hampshire

Present Owner: Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

Present Use: Various college offices

Brief Statement
of Significance: Large, frame house, an early and typical
example for the area. The building has
been the home of various Dartmouth College
people.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built and originally owned by Sylvanus Ripley. Owned by Mills Olcott, 1801-1845. Owned by S. P. Leeds, 1861-1910. Later owned by Rufus Choate.
2. Date of erection: 1786
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The building was originally located next to the church on Wentworth Street and was moved to the present site. The one story, short wings at either end of the building are apparently later additions, but probably added at an early date. The entrance porch is apparently a later addition, probably from the early 20th century. Some alterations were made to the interior by the present owners to convert the building from a dwelling to an office.
4. Reference: The Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, VI (1913-1914), pp. 95, 96, 145, ill. facing p. 95.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Most of the various occupants of the building have been associated with Dartmouth College.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby
Architect
National Park Service
August 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure is a large, wood frame house, typical of an early period in this area.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is sound and well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Layout: Two story, rectangular building with short, one story wings on both ends the same width as the main part of the building.
2. Foundations: Brick
3. Wall construction: Timber frame, clapboard siding. Graduated exposure on the clapboard, wider at the top of the walls than at the bottom.
4. Porches: Small, open entrance porch with two turned posts, gabled roof.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Paneled entrance door with side and transom lights, simple moulded trim on doorway.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 light double hung windows. Unrelieved window frames. Fixed slat shutters.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof on main, two story part of house; gabled roof on one story wing additions. Sheet metal covering.

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b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves, moulded trim.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central hall type plan with two interior chimneys.
2. Stairways: Main stairway in central hall.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
4. Lighting: Electric.
5. Heating: Central.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Building is on a large, level lot on the Dartmouth campus.
2. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, shrubs and very large Elm trees.

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